

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed October 1, 2004, the Examiner noted that claims 1-14 were pending, and rejected claims 1-14. Claims 1, 5-9, 11, 13 and 14 have been amended, new claim 15 has been added and, thus, in view of the forgoing claims 1-15 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected claims 2, 5-11, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. section 112 paragraph 2 as indefinite. The claims have been amended in consideration of the Examiner's comments and it is submitted they satisfy the requirements of the statute. If additional concerns with the claims arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone to resolve the same. Suggestions by the Examiner are also welcome. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Page 2 of the Office Action rejects all claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Borgida and Corey.

Borgida discusses a knowledge base that queries a database through a translation system. No intermediary service is taught or suggested by Borgida. As noted by the Examiner Borgida does not teach or suggest obtaining information from another unit for merging.

Corey is directed to a system in which a user query is used to access several different search engines and the result from the engine with the highest correlation to the query is used as the response. There is no teaching or discussion of obtaining unfixed information based on specific condition of a mediating condition list

In contrast to the Borgida and Corey prior art, the present invention (see claims 1, 13 and 14) is directed to a mediating service or a service that performs action as an intermediary. For example, using the example of the present application, the mediating service may be one that helps companies set up offices where business can be conducted. In this particular situation, the mediating service needs to obtain certain variable information, which can be called personal information, from the user, such as where the office will be located, the number of people that will be in the office, etc. Other variable information is also needed, such as the price of office rent (per square meter) at the place where the office is to be located, the current price of desks and chairs, etc. for the people. This type of variable (or "unfixed") information, which can be called service provider information, is best obtained from service providers that specialize in the subject, such as a furniture wholesaler for desks and chairs and a real estate agent in the town

where the office is to be located. Other information can be fixed, and can reside within a database of the mediating service, such as the standard interior architect design value for the number of square meters of office space needed for each person when an office is small, medium or large, for example, 10 square meters per person for a small office. In this situation, the mediating service can store (pre-store) what information is needed to provide such services ahead of time. For example, the fixed information and some calculation formulae for the amount of space required can be stored ahead of time. By pre-storing some of the fixed information in a list or table ("mediating condition list"), the intermediary service can be provided faster. And for some of the variable information, such as the variable service provider information, the system can pre-store the location of or source of or a pointer-to the variable information. It is advantageous to not store this information in the mediating service database but to store it in the service provider database so that it can be updated as needed by the service provider. That is, the current price of real estate is best maintained by the expert on real estate. Allowing the experts to maintain dynamic information needed for a service performed as an intermediary is more efficient and effective. When the dynamic information is retrieved ("obtained from another information storing unit") and merged ("merging") with the fixed information, the present invention can provide information that "satisfies" the requirements of the mediation service ("conditions") as a result to the user. The prior art does not teach or suggest such.

It is submitted that the invention of independent claims distinguishes over the prior art and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

The dependent claims depend from the above-discussed independent claims and are patentable over the prior art for the reasons discussed above. The dependent claims also recite additional features not taught or suggested by the prior art. For example, claim claims 5 and 6 emphasize that the information retrieved or extracted is personal information. Claims 7 and 8 emphasize that the information is retrieved from the user. Claims 9 and 10 emphasize that a calculation is the information used to complete the mediation. The prior art does not teach or suggest such. It is submitted that the dependent claims are independently patentable over the prior art.

New claim15 emphasizes that one of several intermediary services is provided from fixed information and based on variable information obtained from a variable information source all of which correspond to service entries on a list of services. Nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests such. It is submitted that the new claim, which is different and not narrower than prior filed claims distinguishes over the prior art.

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It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. section 112. It is further submitted that the claims are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____



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